be selected to take its place. The earliest valid name is apparently *Bromus pubescens* Muhl. ex Willdenow in "*Enumeratio Plantarum Horti Regii Botanici Berolinensis*" of 1809. Several spikelets from Muhlenberg's "type" specimen (No. M154) collected in Pennsylvania were seen in the U. S. National Herbarium.

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RHODODENDRON MAXIMUM IN NEW ENGLAND

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It has been very interesting to bring together these New England records of *Rhododendron maximum* L. as a striking example of discontinuous distribution. The seeds of the shrub are scale-like and small and not likely to be carried far by the wind. There is some reason to assume that the shrub was once more generally distributed in New England, as is the case in the middle and southern states. Since the country was settled the beauty of the flowers has led to hacking of the shrubs, and there have been some attempts at transplanting. The Medfield, Mass. shrubs were approaching extinction when the swamp was purchased in order to protect them, and they were entirely removed from a bog in Richmond, Berkshire County, by ambitious gardeners.

It was my privilege on August 20, 1949, to visit the station for this Alleghenian shrub in Lexington, Somerset County, Maine,

guided by Messrs. Walter Deane and J. Harvey Spear of North Anson, Maine. Lexington is an unorganized township next to Kingfield, and the 45th parallel of North Latitude passes through it, halfway to the North Pole. The shrubs grow in a swampy area near Safford Pond, in rich, mainly deciduous woods. The shrub was discovered in 1845 by one Nathan Safford, who lived nearby, and the stand has spread from a few square rods to nearly two acres. About a quarter of this area is now full of dead shrubs, perhaps due to change in water-level. This region is now grown up mostly to deciduous trees, but according to old maps in 1860 and 1870 it was formerly a cleared and well-occupied farming area. The further spread of the shrubs toward Safford Pond is checked by a lusty growth of alders. The best of the shrubs are ten or twelve feet high, and they flowered well in 1949. This station was reported by F. H. Cowan in RHODORA I, 55, and has been visited by the Josselyn Botanical Society of Maine during its Kingfield meetings.

This is probably the most northern station for this shrub. From east of New England there is but one specimen in the Gray Herbarium, collected at Beaver Dam Gold Mines, Sheet Harbor, Nova Scotia.

Nearly ninety miles away in southwestern Maine, there are several stations, especially in various places near Sebago Lake. These are mostly in the town of Standish, but also at Sanford and Springvale, where three acres are covered. It has been found in South Windham, and at an isolated station in Harpswell, according to Professor Fay Hyland of the University of Maine, who has published an elaborate report on the woody plants of Maine.

In New Hampshire there are at least eight stations for this Rhododendron, from Conway south—Albany, Pittsfield, Grantham, and Strafford, and in the south at Mason, Wilton, and Fitzwilliam. The latter now belongs to the Appalachian Club, and has had splendid care and protection. The shrubs are as luxuriant as any I have seen in the North Carolina mountains, or in cultivation.

I am indebted to my friend, Mr. Waldo F. Glover, a former resident of Groton, Vermont, for information about the Rhododendrons in Caledonia County, Vt., the only section of the state

where they have been found. South of the Montpelier & Wells River Railroad in the town of Groton is Ricker Pond, and they are abundant there. North of the Railroad is the larger Groton Pond, and the shrubs flourish there on the north side. They line the brook which flows from the pond, principally on the east side. This brook is the beginning of Wells River. A mile and a half to the east is Levi Pond, where the shrubs formed a dense thicket in 1891. Some of these have died in recent years. Three or four miles from the head of Groton Pond is Martin's Pond in Peacham, on the south side of which they have held their own for years.

Norfolk County in Massachusetts seems to have been another congenial area for them. Dr. Jacob Bigelow in his Medical Botany, Vol. III, part II, page 102 (1821) says that they grow abundantly on the banks of the Charles River in Dedham, about fifteen miles from Boston, and there is an old herbarium specimen in the Gray Herbarium from Dedham, but apparently there has been no recent collection from this stand if it still exists. Also in Medfield is a station which Dr. Bigelow mentions in his Florula Bostoniensis. In recent years these plants were on the verge of extinction, when the Trustees of Public Reservations purchased the swamp to ensure their preservation. The shrubs have been slow about increasing, and none of them are very tall as yet, but there are scattered blossoms every year. There are herbarium specimens from Walpole, and from nearby Attleboro in Bristol County.

One station reported west of Norfolk County is in Blandford in Hampden County, on the plateau south of the Westfield River. Ralph Hoffman, in his Flora of Berkshire County gives an additional station at Washington (altitude 1750 feet). He also reports that some Lenox gardeners eradicated a station in Richmond, Mass., in a poorly planned horticultural venture. There is also an old specimen collected by William Oakes from Williamstown, but nothing is known of its source.

The Rhododendron has been especially at home in southern Rhode Island. Beach Pond in Exeter had a dense thicket of it in 1914. It has also been collected in the edge of an old cedar swamp in South Kingston, near Kingston Hill, in 1906, and there was an earlier collection in 1879 at Worden's Pond. Professor

W. W. Bailey, in Rhodora II, 218, speaks of its magnificent growth at Wickford and in South County.

In eastern Connecticut there are shrubs at North Stonington, not many miles from the Great Swamp region of southern Rhode Island. Further west, at Lyme, on the coast, it was collected in a deep swamp by C. A. Weatherby in 1917. Quite isolated from other New England stations is one at Union, Tolland County, almost up to the Massachusetts line, in a swamp visited by C. H. Bissell and other botanists in July, 1879.

In Litchfield County, northwestern Connecticut, it is known from Warren, also near the Massachusetts state line, and not very far from the station at Blandford, Mass. Winchester and Norfolk complete the roster for the state.

This Rhododendron apparently prefers acid soil conditions, and is completely absent from the extensive calcareous area of western Vermont. It may well have been more frequent and abundant in the past, as some of the stands have seemed to be waning, though others have spread in recent years. The beauty of the flowers has led to indiscriminate hacking of the shrubs. Experiments in transplanting have been unsuccessful.

HINGHAM, Massachusetts

THE NORTH AMERICAN VARIETY OF MILIUM EFFUSUM

M. L. FERNALD

MILIUM EFFUSUM L., var. **cisatlanticum,** var. nov., a var. typica recedit foliis glaucescentibus laminis plerumque laevibus plus minusve succulentibus 0.9–2 cm. latis apicibus vix attenuatis; panicula laxiora verticillis remotis ramis elongatis plerumque binis; spiculis 3–5 mm. longis; fructibus 2.5–3 mm. longis.—Eastern North America, from southeastern Labrador Peninsula and northwestern Newfoundland to Algoma District, Ontario, and Minnesota, south to Nova Scotia, northern and western New England, Pennsylvania, northern Maryland, West Virginia, south-central Ohio, northern Indiana and north-central Illinois. TYPE from NEWFOUNDLAND: thickets on quartzite ledges and gravel along brook, Deep Gulch, Doctor Hill, Highlands of St. John, July 30, 1929, *Fernald, Long and Fogg*, no. 1332 (TYPE in Herb. Gray.; ISOTYPE in Herb. Phil. Acad.).